

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

ERIC D. SCOTT,	)	No. C 11-3128 LHK (PR)
	)	
Petitioner,	)	ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE;
	)	DENYING MOTIONS FOR LEAVE
v.	)	TO PROCEED IN FORMA
	)	PAUPERIS
WARDEN G.D. LEWIS,	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	
	)	(Docket Nos. 2, 3, 6.)

Petitioner, a state prisoner proceeding *pro se*, filed a petition for writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254. Petitioner's motions for leave to proceed in forma pauperis are DENIED. The Court orders Respondent to show cause why a writ of habeas corpus should not be granted.

### DISCUSSION

#### A. Standard of Review

This Court may entertain a petition for writ of habeas corpus "in behalf of a person in custody pursuant to the judgment of a state court only on the ground that he is in custody in violation of the Constitution or laws or treaties of the United States." 28 U.S.C. § 2254(a); *Rose v. Hodges*, 423 U.S. 19, 21 (1975).

A district court shall "award the writ or issue an order directing the respondent to show

1 cause why the writ should not be granted, unless it appears from the application that the  
2 applicant or person detained is not entitled thereto.” 28 U.S.C. § 2243.

3 **B. Petitioner’s Claims**

4 As grounds for relief, Petitioner claims that: (1) there was insufficient corroboration of  
5 accomplice testimony to convict him of murder; (2) the trial court improperly instructed the jury  
6 with CALCRIM No. 362 because the court failed to limit the instruction to extrajudicial or pre-  
7 trial statements; (3) the trial court improperly instructed the jury with CALCRIM 337 because  
8 that instruction enhanced the credibility of witness Troy Collins; and (4) Petitioner suffered  
9 cumulative prejudice. Liberally construed, Petitioner states cognizable claims for relief. The  
10 Court orders Respondent to show cause why the petition should not be granted as to the above  
11 issues.

12 **C. Appointment of Counsel**

13 Petitioner has requested appointment of counsel in this action. However, the Sixth  
14 Amendment’s right to counsel does not apply in habeas corpus actions. *Knaubert v. Goldsmith*,  
15 791 F.2d 722, 728 (9th Cir. 1986). While 18 U.S.C. § 3006A(a)(2)(B) authorizes a district court  
16 to appoint counsel to represent a habeas petitioner if “the court determines that the interests of  
17 justice so require,” the courts have made appointment of counsel the exception rather than the  
18 rule. Appointment is mandatory only when the circumstances of a particular case indicate that  
19 appointed counsel is necessary to prevent due process violations. *See Chaney v. Lewis*, 801 F.2d  
20 1191, 1196 (9th Cir. 1986).

21 Petitioner has thus far been able to adequately present his claims for relief. Respondent  
22 will produce the state record, which should include any state appellate briefs prepared by  
23 counsel. No evidentiary hearing appears necessary in this case, nor are any other extraordinary  
24 circumstances apparent. At this time, appointment of counsel is not mandated, and the interests  
25 of justice do not require appointment of counsel. Accordingly, Plaintiff’s request is DENIED.  
26 This denial is without prejudice to the Court’s *sua sponte* reconsideration should the  
27 developments of this case dictate otherwise.  
28

## CONCLUSION

1. Petitioner's motion for leave to proceed in forma pauperis is DENIED. Petitioner must pay the \$5.00 filing fee within **thirty (30) days** of the filing date of this order, or face dismissal of this action for failure to pay the filing fee. Petitioner's request for an evidentiary hearing is DENIED without prejudice as premature.

2. The Clerk shall serve by mail a copy of this order and the petition (docket no. 1) and all attachments thereto upon the Respondent and the Respondent's attorney, the Attorney General of the State of California. The Clerk shall also serve a copy of this order on Petitioner.

3. Respondent shall file with the Court and serve on Petitioner, within **ninety days** of the date this order is filed, an answer conforming in all respects to Rule 5 of the Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases, showing cause why a writ of habeas corpus should not be granted. Respondent shall file with the answer and serve on Petitioner a copy of all portions of the underlying state criminal record that have been transcribed previously and that are relevant to a determination of the issues presented by the petition.

If Petitioner wishes to respond to the answer, he shall do so by filing a traverse with the Court and serving it on Respondent within **thirty days** of the date the answer is filed.

4. Respondent may file a motion to dismiss on procedural grounds in lieu of an answer, as set forth in the Advisory Committee Notes to Rule 4 of the Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases within **ninety days** of the date this order is filed. If Respondent files such a motion, Petitioner shall file with the court and serve on Respondent an opposition or statement of non-opposition within **thirty days** of the date the motion is filed, and Respondent **shall** file with the court and serve on Petitioner a reply within **fifteen days** of the date any opposition is filed.

5. It is Petitioner's responsibility to prosecute this case. Petitioner is reminded that all communications with the Court must be served on Respondent by mailing a true copy of the document to Respondent's counsel. Petitioner must keep the court and all parties informed of any change of address by filing a separate paper captioned "Notice of Change of Address." He must comply with the Court's orders in a timely fashion. Failure to do so may result in the dismissal of this action for failure to prosecute pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure

1 41(b).

2 IT IS SO ORDERED.

3 DATED: 10/21/11

  
LUCY H. KOH  
United States District Judge